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Identical letters dated 13 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to alert you to the impending riots that the State of Israel is preparing to face this week at the security fence with the Gaza Strip. During these protests, expected to escalate in light of the Palestinian "Nakba Day", Hamas, the internationally recognized terrorist organization, plans to exploit innocent Palestinian children as human shields and place them directly in harm's way.

For over a month, the Palestinian leadership has insisted that its demonstrations at the fence are peaceful. As we have seen repeatedly, however, these riots have centred on violence and placed innocent people, both Israeli and Palestinian, in grave danger. Protesters have sent flaming kites over the fence, spreading forest fires across Israel's southern agricultural land. They have released burned tyres into the fence, thrown Molotov cocktails, planted explosive devices and even attempted to forcibly breach the fence and infiltrate Israeli territory. Twice, extremely violent Palestinian rioters have broken into and penetrated the Palestinian side of Kerem Shalom crossing, causing major and destructive damage to the fuel terminal and conveyer, thus hurting the sole lifeline into the Gaza Strip.

As the violence persists, just as Hamas intends, the terrorists continue to hide behind the innocent children of Gaza to ensure their own survival, even dressing them as armed soldiers and inciting them to violence. As Hamas commits grave violations of international law, Israel's military is taking all possible measures to protect the civilians that Hamas sends intentionally into harm's way. As these persisting riots pose a direct threat to our citizens and communities, Israel will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure their safety and security.

I call on the Security Council to condemn Hamas's use of civilians and children as human shields.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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